mutilation, except in one instance, where the radius of a young wolf is impressed by the incisors and canine teeth of an animal the size of the weasel.

Such of the bones as were examined appeared to have lost the greater part of their animal matter, and had consequently become brittle; some of them when immersed in water became black, but recovered their former appearance on drying; this was especially the case with those of the carnivorous tribes.

Mr. Clift observes that appearances of disease in fossil bones are of rare occurrence; among these, however, he found two examples in the metacarpal and metatarsal bones of the bovine animals, showing upon their surface the effect of ossific inflammation; there were also marks of disease in the lower jaw of a young wolf.

It appears from Mr. Clift's detailed enumeration of the bones from these caverns, that they are clearly referable to animals of known and still existing genera; but he observes that it is a curious circumstance, that with the exception of the very few belonging to the deer, they all appertain to animals differing from those formerly found in the immediate vicinity of the present caverns.

Mr. Clift concludes this communication with a particular description and enumeration of the bones, which are further illustrated by reference to several drawings.

On the Chinese Year. *By* J. F. Davis, *Esq. F.R.S.* Read December 19, 1822. [*Phil. Trans.* 1823, *p.* 91.]

After stating his opinion that the Chinese are possessed of no original astronomical knowledge, but that that which they possess is entirely of foreign origin, since in former times they even adopted the errors of European astronomers; and that the instruments mentioned by Du Halde as having been found by the missionaries on their first entrance into the country, were constructed by the Arabians; the author proceeds to confirm this opinion by an account of the division of the Chinese year, and a comparison of the Chinese with the European zodiac. The former is divided into twenty-eight constellations, and Mr. Davis has represented these in an annexed drawing, with the number of degrees affixed to each; from which it appears that they are extremely unequal, the largest consisting of 30°, and the least of not more than 5°. Of these constellations, Kio, which corresponds to a part of Virgo, is considered as the first in order; which is perhaps a proof, says the author, that in some former period their year commenced at this point. As far, however, as Mr. Davis's information, the Chinese have no solar year, their year, properly considered, being a lunar year, consisting of twelve months, of twenty-nine and thirty days alternately, with the occasional addition of a thirteenth month, to make it correspond more nearly with the sun's course.